

the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are employed in the public sector has increased by 1.5 million, from 2.5 million in 1980 to 4 million in 1995. The public sector has become a major employer in the UK, and its growth has been a major factor in the overall growth of the economy.

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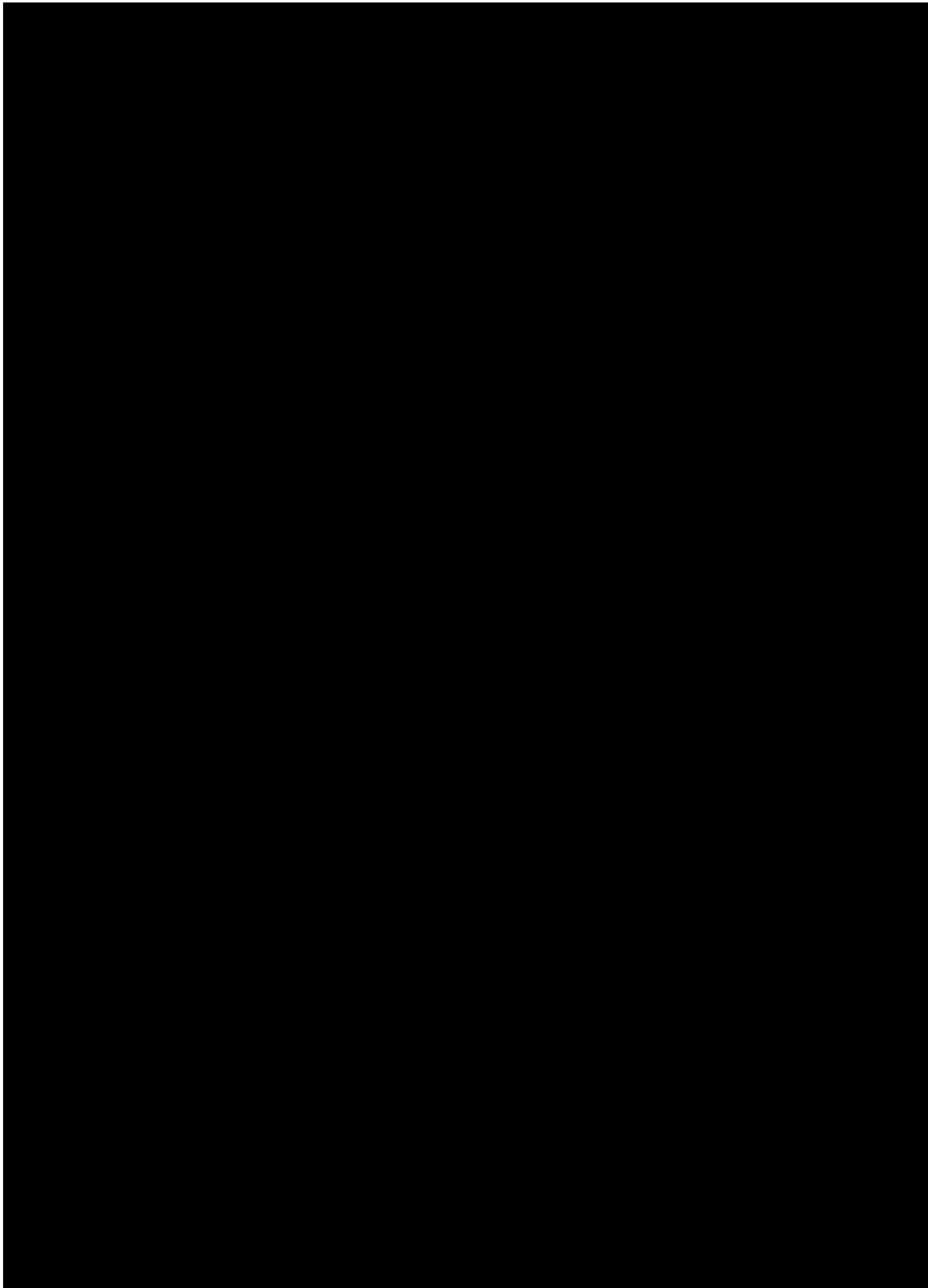
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[The following text is a dense, continuous block of text, likely a scan of a document page. It is mostly illegible due to extreme blurring and low contrast. The text appears to be a single paragraph or a series of lines of prose, but the specific words and sentences cannot be transcribed accurately.]

the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are aged 65 and over has increased by 1.5 million, and the number of people aged 75 and over has increased by 1.1 million (Office of National Statistics 1999). The number of people aged 65 and over is projected to increase to 6.5 million by 2011, and the number of people aged 75 and over to 3.5 million (Office of National Statistics 1999).

There is a growing awareness of the need to develop services to meet the needs of older people, and a number of initiatives have been developed to address this need. The Department of Health (1999) has published a strategy for older people, which sets out the government's commitment to improve the lives of older people. The strategy is based on three main principles: (1) to ensure that older people have the opportunity to live independently and actively; (2) to ensure that older people have access to the services and support they need; and (3) to ensure that older people are treated with respect and dignity.

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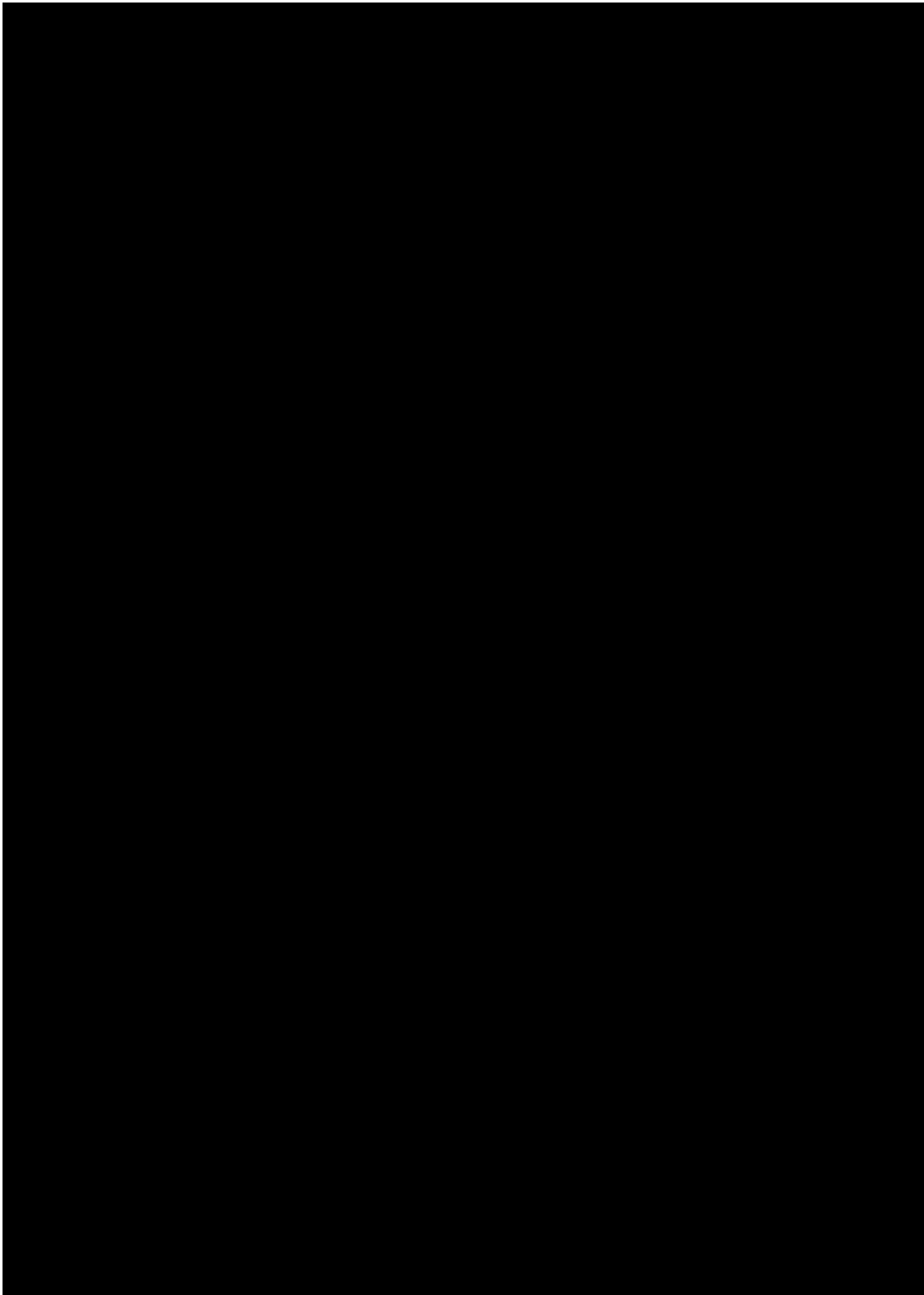
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There is a growing awareness of the need to address the health care needs of older people, and a number of initiatives have been launched to improve the health care of older people. The Department of Health has launched the 'Age Friendly' initiative, which aims to make the health care system more responsive to the needs of older people. The initiative includes a number of measures, such as: (i) improving the training of health care professionals in the care of older people; (ii) improving the accessibility of health care services for older people; (iii) improving the quality of care for older people; and (iv) improving the involvement of older people in the health care system.

The 'Age Friendly' initiative is a multi-agency initiative, involving the Department of Health, the Department of Social Security, the Department of the Environment, and a number of other government departments. The initiative is also supported by a number of non-governmental organizations, such as the Age UK, the Age Concern, and the Age Foundation. The initiative is a response to the growing need to address the health care needs of older people, and it is hoped that it will improve the health care of older people in the UK.

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